



Nathan Deal
Governor

Bobby Cagle, MSW
Commissioner

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**Pre-K/Early Learning Students Read 28,000 Books on
“Georgia Reads Aloud Day”**

Lafayette Kids World in Fayette County wins contest for Most Books Read

ATLANTA, Ga., (March 22, 2013) – Parents, teachers and special guests helped child care centers and public schools set a new record Tuesday for “Georgia Reads Aloud” Day. Emphasizing the impact of reading on children’s lives, classrooms read 28,169 books --- more than double the number of books read last year. The event is sponsored annually by Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning. “Georgia Reads Aloud” supports Governor Nathan Deal’s goal to have all of Georgia’s children reading on grade level by third grade and is part of First Lady Sandra Deal’s “Read Across Georgia” initiative.

“We are grateful to all of the participants, especially the parents, teachers, & mentors who joined together for Georgia Reads Aloud Day,” said Mrs. Deal. “Children model their reading habits by listening to adults. It is important for children to learn proper pronunciation, expression, pauses and cadence. It is my hope that Georgia Reads Aloud Day has encouraged our children to read to others and become young teachers themselves.”

“This was a landmark day for reading by our state’s youngest learners,” said DECAL Commissioner Bobby Cagle. “One of the simplest ways to boost a child’s learning potential is by making books an integral part of their lives. Reading to preschoolers and letting them read to you helps build stronger relationships, supports basic speech skills and enhances future academic achievement.”

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“There are so many ways to engage children in learning and enlarge their world; empowering children with the love of books is the best of all,” said Susan Adams, Assistant Commissioner for Georgia’s Pre-K Program.

DECAL sponsored a contest for the Most Books Read between 7:00 AM and 6:00 PM Tuesday. The winning classroom is at Lafayette Kids World Pre-K in Fayette County where students read a total of 1,118 books. The school will receive a special visit from Georgia’s First Lady Sandra Deal and DECAL Commissioner Bobby Cagle. Another class at the same location took third place with 1,010 books read and a second Lafayette Kids World in Tyrone placed second with 1,070 books read.

About Bright from the Start

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning is responsible for meeting the child care and early education needs of Georgia’s children and their families. It administers the nationally recognized Georgia’s Pre-K Program, licenses child care centers and home-based child care, administers Georgia's Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) program, federal nutrition programs, and manages voluntary quality enhancement programs.

The department also houses the Head Start State Collaboration Office, distributes federal funding to enhance the quality and availability of child care, and works collaboratively with Georgia child care resource and referral agencies and organizations throughout the state to enhance early care and education. For more information, go to www.dec.al.ga.gov.